

57-5

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

Approved For Release 2002/10/10 : CIA-RDP78S02149R000200240003-0

94574 28/ SECRET

10
Action NNNNVV MJB923JIA401
RR RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 10958/1 3190950
ZNY SSSSS
R 153909Z NOV 66
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
RUHLHQ/CINCPAC
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

12842

1966 NOV 15 AM 6 16

RUMJBT
SECRET SECNE OF TWO SAIGON 10958

CABLE SEC
LIMDIS L I M D I S
PER 210-202

25X1

SEACoord MESSAGE

SUBJECT: SEACoord MEETING ON CAMBODIA

DDI
D/OCI
D/ONE
DDP

1. SEACoord MEETING WAS HELD NOVEMBER 10 TO DISCUSS THE INCREASED USE OF CAMBODIA AS A SANCTUARY AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA BY THE VIET CONG. AN INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING WAS PRESENTED BY MACV J-2, FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION TO COUNTER THE THREAT.

25X1

2. THE INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING GAVE CONCRETE AND IMPRESSIVE EVIDENCE THAT THE SIZE OF THE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO THE VC/NVA AND THEIR USE OF BASE AREAS IN CAMBODIA CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO OUR EFFORTS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. OWING TO THE CLANDESTINE NATURE OF THE COMMUNIST USE OF CAMBODIA, WE DO NOT NUMERICALLY

D/OCR
D/OCR

RUMJIR 10958/1 SECRET
KNOW THE FULL EXTENT OF THE DANGER; HOWEVER, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IT EXISTS, THAT WE ARE BEING HURT BY IT NOW, AND THAT IT IS GROWING IN MAGNITUDE. THE FOLLOWING DATA FROM THE INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING (DETAILS OF WHICH ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO WASHINGTON THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS) HIGHLIGHTS THE PROBLEM:

25X1

CLASS. EVIDENCE THROUGH CAPTURED VC DOCUMENTS AND INTER-ROGATION OF PRISONERS AND RALLIERS CONFIRMS THE VALUE OF CAMBODIA AS A LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA TO THE ENEMY. TOTAL OF 9 BATTALIONS, AND 3 OTHER NVA GROUPS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE PASSED THROUGH CAMBODIA ON THEIR WAY TO SOUTH VIET-NAM. INFILTRATION, OF COURSE, IS CONTINUING IN SPITE OF OUR EFFORTS AT INTERDICTION IT IN LAOS AND NORTH VIET-NAM. ONE SOURCE

25X1

LOCATED COMBAT HEADQUARTERS ON THE CAMBODIAN BORDER 16 KM NORTH OF KATU. VIET

State Dept., JCS reviews completed

Approved For Release 2002/10/10 : CIA-RDP78S02149R000200240003-0

SECRET

-2- SAIGON 10958, 150909Z NOV 66, SECTION ONE OF TWO

AND THE NFL RADIO STATION AND SO-CALLED FRONT HEADQUARTERS OF NGUYEN MUU THO ON CAMBODIAN TERRITORY NEAR BA CHAU. THERE IS EVIDENCE COSVN MOVES INTO CAMBODIA WHEN ITS SECURITY IS THREATENED. DIRECT COLLUSION BETWEEN CAMBODIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND THE VC FOR TRANSPORTATION OF RICE AND CHICOM ARMS AND MUNITIONS TO VC UNITS IS CONFIRMED IN SEVERAL REPORTS

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 10958/1 S E C R E T
BY RALLIERS. MACV CONSERVATIVELY ESTIMATES THAT CAMBODIA SUPPLIES THE VC WITH 100,000 TONS OF RICE ANNUALLY (55,000 TONS BY OFFICIAL RKG-VC AGREEMENT). A FORCE OF 300,000 TROOPS REQUIRES ONLY 82,000 TONS OF RICE ANNUALLY.

(B) SEVEN LARGE VC BASE AREAS IN CAMBODIA ALONG THE BORDER HAVE BEEN PINPOINTED. THESE AFFORD NOT ONLY RESUPPLY CAPABILITIES BUT SERVE ALSO AS STAGING AREAS FOR COMBAT OPERATIONS. IN ORDER TO CONTAIN THIS THREAT IN THE WESTERN PLEIKU AREA, APPROXIMATELY ONE U.S. DIVISION HAS TO BE KEPT IN PLACE TO MEET POTENTIAL ATTACKS BY FIVE REGIMENTS OF THE 1ST NVA DIVISION FROM THE CHU PONG BASE AREA IN CAMBODIA. FOUR MAJOR BATTLES HAVE OCCURRED IN THE AREA THE PAST YEAR IN WHICH THE VC UTILIZED CAMBODIAN SANCTUARY. MACV ESTIMATES THAT FROM JANUARY TO AUGUST 1966 THERE WERE 7317 U.S. AND ARVN CASUALTIES (INCLUDING U.S. CASUALTIES OF 639 KIA AND 3744 WIA) IN THE BORDER PROVINCES INVOLVING VC CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS. THIS, OF COURSE, EXCLUDES RECENT HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE BORDER AREAS. IN ADDITION, APPROXIMATELY 10,000 CIDG AND OTHER VIETNAMESE FORCES ARE PERMANENTLY ALLOCATED FOR BORDER CONTROL.

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 10958/1 S E C R E T

3. OUR ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION TO COUNTER THIS THREAT IS GOVERNED BY THE BASIC CONSIDERATION THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO EXPAND THE WAR ACROSS THE BORDER. MACV BELIEVES OUR TOLERANCE LEVEL IS BEING REACHED. THE NEED TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF OUR MEN AND ALLIED TROOPS JUSTIFIES, WE BELIEVE, CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF A WIDE RANGE OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS. WE, THEREFORE, PROPOSE A SEQUENTIAL NONBELLIGERENT APPROACH AS FOLLOWS:

(C) WE RECOMMEND, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, THAT THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, USING AS A STARTING POINT THE INFORMATION BEING FORWARDED BY MACV J-2, CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE REAPPRAISAL OF THE

SECRET

SECRET

-3- SAIGON 10958, 150909Z NOV 66, SECTION ONE OF TWO

PROBLEM. WE BELIEVE PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID THE
CONSIDERABLE BODY OF INFORMATION NOW EXISTING

25X1

(C) WITH THE CONFIRMATION OF THE MAGNITUDE AND SERIOUSNESS OF
THE PROBLEM AFFORDED BY SUCH A REAPPRAISAL, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD
ARRANGE FOR WIDER DESSIMINATION OF THE FACTS ON VC USE OF CAM-
BODIA. THIS WOULD BE WITH THE AIM OF CREATING GREATER UNDER-
STANDING OF THE U.S. POSITION AND MAKING IT MORE BELIEVABLE.
THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN A HIGHLY SELECTIVE WAY. INFORMATION ON
THE PROBLEM COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE SELECTIVELY TO KEY COLUMNISTS
AND OPINION-MAKERS. WE SHOULD PUBLICIZE TO OUR BENEFIT THOSE

PAGE 5 RUHJIR 10958/1 S E C R E T

AGENTS WHERE THE RKG OR VC TAKES INITIATIVE ACROSS THE
BORDER. IT COULD ALSO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY PUTTING INFORMATION
INTO THE HANDS OF FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS, NOTABLY THE AUSTRALIANS
(FOR USE IN PHNOM PENH) AND THE CANADIANS (FOR USE WITHIN THE
IGG), BY PROVIDING IT TO STABLE, SENSIBLE CAMBODIANS IN PHNOM
PENH WHO MIGHT OPPOSE SIHANOUK'S PRO-COMMUNIST POLICIES. WE
WANT THAT WE ALSO UNDERTAKE A PROGRAM TO GET THE HARD FACTS
ON AUSTRALIAN NON-NEUTRALITY TO PEOPLE WHO ARE CLOSE TO
SIHANOUK WHO ENJOY HIS CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT, AND WHO,
BY ASSOCIATION, HAVE HAD SOME INFLUENCE.
THE INFORMATION COULD BE BASED ON EDITED AND DECLASSIFIED EXTRACTS
FROM STUDIES PREPARED BY MACV AND OTHER SOURCES. MACV INTENDS
TO KEEP THESE STUDIES CONTINUALLY UP-DATED. OUR EFFORTS ALONG
THIS LINE, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT
SIHANOUK WILL CHANGE HIS POLICIES FROM HIS OWN APPREC-
IATION OF THE WAR'S SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME FOR THE FREE WORLD. TO
THE EXTENT THAT WE CAN IMPRESS THE FACTS ON CAMBODIANS WHO HAVE
ACCESS TO HIM, SIHANOUK MAY BE INFLUENCED OVER TIME BY WHAT
HE SEES AND THINKS.

(C) ADDITIONAL EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO REDUCE THE LOGISTICAL

PAGE 6 RUHJIR 10958/1 S E C R E T

ACCESS CAMBODIA TO THE VC. THE GVN, WITH OUR ASSISTANCE,
IS IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING A CONVOY SYSTEM TO CONTROL
AND REGULATE SHIPPING ON THE MEKONG TO PHNOM PENH AND WILL RE-
DUCE THE EXPLOITATION OF THAT CHANNEL. WE MIGHT ALSO EXPLORE

SECRET

SECRET

-4- SAIGON 10958, 150909Z NOV 66, SECTION ONE OF TWO

SOME MEANS OF BETTER SURVEILLANCE AND PERHAPS CONTROL OVER SHIPPING BETWEEN SIHANOUKVILLE AND BLOC PORTS, AS WELL, IN FREE WORLD PORTS FROM FREE WORLD PORTS.

(C) WE COULD USEFULLY RENEW EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SOVIET APPROVAL OF AN EXPANDED ICC IN CAMBODIA TO CONTROL THE BORDERS. DESPITE PAST REBUFFS WE SHOULD EXERCISE FULLY ALL THE MEANS AT OUR DISPOSAL FOR INFLUENCING THE SOVIETS TO COOPERATE.

(D) AN EXPANSION OF OUR INTELLIGENCE GATHERING CAPACITIES, CLANDESTINELY AND BY OTHER MEANS, SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. WE ARE EXAMINING VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR GROUND AND AIR INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION.

Good
topic
for

LOUIS

25X1

SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET	
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE	INITIALS	
1	DIRR		23 Nov	✓	
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE	
Remarks:					
<p>Bill:</p> <p>This is the lodge cable on the Cambodian infiltration study. State is following up & will probably request a SNIE.</p>					
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER					
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.				DATE	
				22 Nov	
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET	